

should hence take their date and authority from Gray, and not from their prior use in a vernacular sense by the French authors.

Variations in orthography, due to emendations or to typographical errors, are quite freely given, but by no means exhaustively; thus in such striking cases as *Sayornis* and *Sayiornis*, *Pediocætes* and *Pediæcetes*, not infrequently only the original form is cited, while in the case of *Poocætes* and *Poæcetes*, both forms are given.\*

As a whole Mr. Waterhouse's 'Index' is a work of great merit, involving an immense amount of patient, painstaking, arduous labor, for which systematic ornithologists the world over will be truly grateful.—J. A. A.

**Blanchard on the Nomenclature of Organized Beings.**†—This 'Report' is more general in its scope than the 'Code of Nomenclature' of the American Ornithologists' Union, dealing as it does with Botany and Palæontology as well as with living animals, and hence has to confront questions arising from the peculiar conditions met with among the lower forms of animal life (where larval forms have been made the basis of species and genera, and in Palæontology, where species and genera have been based on parts of an organism), which the A. O. U. Committee were not especially called upon to consider. It is pleasant to find, however, the present report in nearly complete harmony with the rulings of the A. O. U. Committee, as regards not only leading principles but in special cases, where the ground covered is the same.

The chief points of difference from the A. O. U. 'Code' relate to the starting point for the beginning of the binomial system, and the matter of emendation of names. As to the first, the 'Report' takes the tenth (1758) edition of Linnæus's 'Systema Naturæ' as the real starting point (as does also the A. O. U. 'Code') but makes reservations in favor of (1) Tournefort (Botany, 1700; Mollusks, 1742), (2) Lang (Mollusks, 1752), (3) Klein (Mollusks, 1753), (4) Clerck (Spiders, 1757), and (5) Adanson (Mollusks, 1757), the works of these authors conforming strictly to the binomial system. The action of the 'Law of Priority' is thus not strictly limited in point of time, but by the following conditions: "Article XI. Le nom attribué à chaque Genre et à chaque Espèce ne peut être que celui sous lequel ils ont été le plus anciennement désignés, à la condition: *a.*—Que ce nom ait été divulgué dans une publication où il aura été clairement et suffisamment défini; *b.*—Que l'auteur ait effectivement entendu appliquer les règles de la nomenclature binaire."

In discussing the 'Law of Priority' Dr. Blanchard revives and emphasizes the strictures made by M. Chaper in his report on the same subject‡

\* Singularly, however, the change of *Poocætes* to *Poæcetes*, is ascribed to Sharpe, 1888, though made by Coues some ten years earlier.

† De la Nomenclature des êtres organisés. Rapport présenté au Congrès International de Zoologie par le Dr. Raphaël Blanchard, Professeur-Agrégé à la Faculté de Médecine de Paris, Secrétaire général de la Société Zoologique de France. > Congrès International de Zoologie, Paris, 1889. Rapports présentés au Congrès International de Zoologie. July, 1889, pp. 87-157.

‡ De la nomenclature des êtres organisés. 8vo, pp. 37, 1881.



to the Société Zoologique de France, in 1881, he very justly ascribing to Tournefort "la gloire d'avoir fondé la nomenclature binaire," which for so many years has been wrongfully assigned to Linnæus, the latter merely formulating the rules in a more precise and general manner than had been done by any of his predecessors. While he, in his rules, insisted upon the strict observance of the rule of propriety, he, "sans autre motif que de satisfaire à sa vanité" rejected genera and species firmly established by his predecessors, who were often far better zoölogists than was Linnæus.

Dr. Blanchard regretfully considers the use of trinomials, and even quadrinomials, admissible (see pp. 94-96, and 150) in special cases,\* as in descriptive works where it is necessary to distinguish diverse forms belonging to the same species. Indeed, he believes the adoption of the system inevitable, its use is already so extended.

In respect to the emendation of names, Dr. Blanchard's ruling is radically opposed to that favored by the A. O. U. 'Code.' He says: "Article XIV. Tout barbarisme, tout mot formé en violation des règles de l'orthographe, de la grammaire et de la composition devra être rectifié" (p. 147). Again he says (p. 157), all such words should be *rejected* ("rejeté"). Dr. Blanchard and our 'Code,' which says the "original orthography of a name is to be rigidly preserved, unless a typographical error is evident," thus represent the two extremes of this question. We still believe the ruling of the A. O. U. Committee on this point is sound in principle, but yet susceptible of a slight modification in the interest of uniformity in respect to genitive terminations, and in the transliteration of Greek vowels.—J. A. A.

**Ridgway's Ornithology of Illinois.**† —From Prof. Forbes' 'General Introduction' we quote: "This volume is the first to appear of a series on the zoölogy and cryptogramic botany of the State of Illinois, authorized and provided for by the Thirty-fourth General Assembly.‡

"The series is intended to summarize the facts relating to the natural history of Illinois which have been accumulated by general investigations made in the districts of which the State forms a part, by the studies of local naturalists, and by the operations of the State Laboratory of Natural History . . . . In the preparation of the volumes of the report it will be our main final object to furnish the materials for a full and accurate picture of the native plant and animal life of Illinois as it actually exists in our fields, woods, and waters, and to bring most prominently into view those parts of the subject which have a peculiar educational or economic value. . . .

"The volume here presented is due to the generous and disinterested

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\* "Dans les cas spéciaux où il est utile de distinguer des variétés, l'adjonction d'un troisième nom à ceux du genre et de l'espèce est permise" (p. 150).

† Natural History Survey of Illinois, | State Laboratory of Natural History, | S. A. Forbes, Director. | — | The | Ornithology | of Illinois. | — | Part I, Descriptive Catalogue, | By Robert Ridgway. | Part II, Economic Ornithology, | By S. A. Forbes. | — | Volume I. | —Published by Authority of the State Legislature. | — | Springfield, Ill.: | H. W. Rokker, Printer and Binder, | 1889, Roy. 8vo. pp. i-viii, 1-520, colored frontispiece, plates, i-xxxii.

‡ "Laws of the State of Illinois, 1885, p. 23, sec. 3."



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